URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1942.

Chairman of the Council: Councillor F. A. Bates.

Finance and General Purposes Committee:

Chairman: Councillor O. Wells, J.P.

Councillors: H.P.Dimmock, J.P., C.D.Flack, J.P., S. Maycock, A.J.Stevens, J.P., and F.A.Bates.

Public Health Committee:

Chairman: Councillor S. Maycock.

Councillors: T.R.Coles, C.D.Flack, J.P., W.G.Mells, F.A.Bates, and O.Wells, J.P.

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health: (On War Service). A.Michael Critchley, M.D., D.P.H.

Acting M.O.H. Janet C. Ronaldson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Buckingham andthe Rural District of Buckingham).

Sanitary Inspector: A. Bates, A.M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.Cy.E., A.M.P.T.I., A.M.Inst.W.E. (Certificate R.S.I. & S.I. Joint Board and Certificate R.S.I. Meat & Food Inspection).

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, with the assistance of Mr. Bates, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, my Annual Report, which reviews the Public Health situation for the year 1942.

Again the incidence of Infectious Disease has been low, although there was a small outbreak of Scarlet Fever during the year. Six cases of Diphtheria were notified.

There is still a fair number of evacuees and the London County Council Schools in Bletchley are functioning, as is the School Clinic for evacuated children. In general the standard of health and nutrition in both local children and evacuees is good. The Nursery School is popular and the condition of the children satisfactory.

Attendances at the Child Welfare Clinic are good and although there is room for improvement in the number of children under five presented for Diphtheria Immunisation, there is always a fairly large attendance at the monthly session.

The clinics for Child Psychology continue and this branch of Medical service appears to be expanding in the area. It is of great assistance in dealing with the "problem child", whose physical as well as mental state often calls for, and receives, further investigation.

The Blood Transfusion service is still in operation with satisfactory results.

I am grateful to the Council for their continued help and interest in Public Health matters and would take this opportunity of thanking them and the Surveyor and his staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Janet C. Ronaldson.

Section A. SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

1942

Area (In acres)	4,463.
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	9,060.
No. of inhabited houses (end of year)	2,400.
Rateable Value	£46,699.
Rates per. £1	12/-
Sum represented by a 1d. rate (gross)	£194/11/9

Births (legitimate)	Males	86	
	Females	65	151
Births (illegitimate)	Males	1	
	Females	1	2
Still Births	Males	2	
	Females	1	3
Deaths	Males	40	
	Females	31	71
Deaths per. 1,000 population			7.8
Deaths from puerperal causes			0
Bletchley Maternal Mortality			0
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age			0
Deaths from Measles			0
Deaths from Whooping Cough			0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			0

Principal Causes of Death;	M	F	T
Influenza	0	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	1	3
Cancer	7	7	14
Diabetes	0	0	0
Heart Disease	12	6	18
Other circulatory diseases	0	0	0
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Pneumonia	2	0	2
Other respiratory diseases	0	0	0
Digestive diseases	0	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	1	0	1
Ac:inf:encaph:	0	0	0
Intracranial vascular lesions	3	5	8
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	0	0	0
Premature Births	2	1	3
Con:mal:birth:inj:infant:dis	2	0	2
Suicide	1	0	1
Road Traffic Accidents	0	0	0
Other violent causes	3	0	3
All other causes	3	8	11
Nephritis	1	0	1
Total.	40	31	71

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

i. Public Health Staff - see Page 1 of Report.

Health Services.

ii. (a) Laboratory Facilities:

The Council has arranged with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service of the School of Pathology, Oxford, to perform its pathological investigations. An economy has thereby been effected and a fuller service been acquired.

(b) Ambulance Facilities:

The Austin 18 Ambulance continues to function satisfactorily and three A.R.P. ambulances are also available.

(c) Nursing in the home remains as in the previous reports.

(d) Clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

The Welfare has been held weekly at the School Clinic, the M.O.H. attending twice each month. The Centre has carried on its function satisfactorily. National Pool Milk has been available for supply to mothers but there seems to have been no shortage of fresh milk. The demand, therefore, for pool milk has not been great.

Other Clinics under this head have been held as in previous years.

(e) Hospitals:

No change in the hospitals serving this area has occurred since the last Medical Officer of Health's report.

Section C. Sanitary circumstances of the area.

1. (i) WATER.

Nothing of note has occurred in connection with the water supply of the town during the year. The quality of the water remains at its usual high level and frequent samples of the supply, both at the Works and throughout the town, are taken. The following is a typical analysis:-

	Parts per 100,000.	Grains per Gallon.
Chlorine in Chlorides.	1.95.	1.36.
Chlorine x 1.647 = Sodium Chloride.	3.20.	2.24.
Nitrogen as Nitrates.	Nil.	Nil.
Saline Ammonia.	Nil.	Nil.
Albumoid Ammonia.	0.002.	0.0014.
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37 degrees Centigrade.	0.012.	0.0084.

Remarks:- From a consideration of the above data, no exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes, upon chemical grounds.

Bacteriological Analysis - 31/12/42.

Count Yeastral Agar 2 days 37°C..... 5 per ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37°C..... 0 per 100 ml

This Water falls into Class I of the Ministry of Health's grading.

Result of examination.

From a consideration of the above data, no exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes, upon bacteriological grounds.

(ii) DRAINAGE.

No new drainage work has been undertaken. The Sewage Works, despite overloading and despite certain private sewerage extensions which have been carried out on a somewhat large scale, continue to function satisfactorily.

2. (i) Rivers and Streams.

There has been no serious flooding during the year. The Ouse Catchment Board have cleaned out the main river of the Little Ouse and this has, no doubt, materially helped in this desirable state of affairs.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

The whole of the drainage of Bletchley is on the water carriage system except for a few houses at Water Eaton, the conversion of which is being deferred until the Water Eaton main drainage scheme is carried out. This scheme will be put into operation as soon as circumstances permit. No sanitary nuisance arises from these isolated cases.

(ii). Public Cleansing

House refuse collection has been put on a fortnightly basis instead of a weekly basis in order to afford greater facilities for the collection of salvage, which has now assumed a very high percentage of the total collection and the town stands high in the Buckinghamshire averages for salvage collection.

iii) Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Inspections Made.

Water.	104.	Housing.	85	Buildings. .	25
Bakehouses. . . .	18..	Sewerage	107	Destructor .	52
Factories	20.	Drainage	99	Smoke . . .	14
Food Premises . .	26.	Slaughterhouses. .	253		
Total Inspections.	795.				

Houses and clothing disinfected.	14
Informal Notices.	35
Statutory Notices.	0

(iv) Shops.

Inspections have been made under the Shops Act of the shops in the district and no statutory action, has been required to meet the provisions of the Act.

(v) Camping Sites.

There are no registered camping sites in the Bletchley Urban Area.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

Complaints have been received during the year in respect of a canteen chimney belonging to a Government Department. Informal representations made to the Department and to the Engineer in charge of the stoking plant have resulted in a temporary abatement of the trouble and the matter is being further pressed.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

(a) There is no change in this position since previous reports.
(b) There is one privately owned swimming pool which is now being used as a static water tank.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There have been only two cases of bed bugs during the year and appropriate action was taken. Apart from a minor reoccurrence later-on the cases appear to have been satisfactorily dealt with.

(ix) Schools.

The number of schools remains as before, though, partly owing to the return to London of many evacuees, there was a decline in the number of children.

The figures for December 1942 were as follows:-

	On Roll, December, 1942.
Mixed. (Juniors and Seniors).	189.
Infants.	82.

Section D.

Housing.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1. (1) a. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health of Housing Acts)..... 51.
   b. Number of Inspections made for the purpose 74.

   (2) a. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925..... 51.
   b. Number of inspections made for the purpose 43.

   (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.. .. 0.

   (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 0.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

   Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.... .... 30.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year..... Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. Overcrowding.

   (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... 0.
   2. Number of families dwelling therein..... 0.
   3. Number of persons dwelling therein..... 0.

   (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... .... 0.

   (c) (i) Numberof cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... ... . 0.
   (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.... 0.

   (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... 0.

   (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report..... 0.

No new Council Houses have been built during the year.

Section E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. There are 34 Farms registered and 30 retailers of milk.

(b) Meat. The Council's Sanitary Inspector has inspected all meat and this has meant a considerable increase in the scope of his duties not only because of the large number of animals slaughtered but also because Bletchley is a Central Depot for the area and because of the irregular times of slaughtering and the great increase in the number of casualties slaughtered. It would appear that some system of centralised slaughtering after the war, such as is now in operation, would be of great benefit both to the butcher and to the public.

	No. Slaughtered.	No. Inspected.	No. Condemned.
Cattle.	1,517.	1,517	24.
Calves.	1,261.	1,261.	4.
Sheep and Lambs . . .	6,961.	6,961.	5.
Pigs.	262.	262.	5.
Totals.	10,001.	10,001.	38.

Section F. Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Diphtheria prophylaxis continues as before, a Clinic being held at Bletchley Welfare Clinic approximately once a month. Attendance has been good and there is now little need to urge parents to send their children. The vaccine used is Alum-Precipitated-Toxoid (A.P.T.), given in two doses.

Table showing number of cases notified and numbers admitted to an isolation Hospital.

1942.

DISEASE.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria.	6.	6.
Scarlet Fever.	16.	16.
Erysipelas.	0.	0.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	0.	0.
Pneumonia.	2.	0.
Measles.	19.	0.
Whooping Cough.	0.	0.
Acute Primary Broncho pneumonia.	3.	0.
Acute Influenzal pneumonia.	1.	0.
Scabies.	1.	0.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.				Deaths.			
Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	0.	1.	0.	2.	1.	0.	0.

Cases of Infectious Diseases According to Age and Sex.

		Total all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 - 2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-35.	35-45.	45-65.	Over 65.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	M.	8.	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F.	8.	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	M.	1.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	5.	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	M.	0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	M.	0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	3.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Measles.	M.	10.	-	-	1	5	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	9.	-	-	2	2	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Primary Broncho-pneumonia.	M.	2.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F.	1.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Influenzal pneumonia.	M.	0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-